



SCOUTS'

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005



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Scout Families,

First, and I know this is no surprise to any of you, can't help but be happy to report that as I write this, we have theoretically passed the half way point. Hopefully that makes everyone excited because we are. It is almost hard to believe that we left home over 3 months ago. ...and to dispel any potential rumors, I have heard absolutely nothing associated with us coming home later than planned. That is a good thing. We will all need to watch how the Iraqi Constitutional signing in December goes. If that goes smoothly, it is a good thing for our schedule. Currently, I consider our chances for arriving home right on schedule very high.

November has been a tremendous month for the Scouts. This shouldn't come as a big surprise but it has also been very busy. Since our departure, your outstanding Sailors have launched our 8 airplanes off the ship over 700 times. An amazing number when you think of it. More importantly, they have done it safely, efficiently and have provided the finest ready to fly aircraft possible with all systems operational, ready to support our

troops on the ground. I cannot emphasize enough how important this is. All of our efforts are dedicated to protecting the ship, supporting the air wing and supporting the troops on the ground in Iraq. Every department, every shop, every Sailor in this command makes it happen every day. The pride I feel as I watch our dedicated guys and gals tenaciously tackle the flight schedule every day, never giving up when the aircraft aren't cooperating the way we would like and ultimately succeeding in making our requirements is something I don't think I will ever really be able to place into words. I believe what makes me the most proud, and hopefully you feel the same way, is as I speak with our Sailors, every one understands why we are here and how critical our mission is. That if we do not succeed in getting our aircraft in the air, with all systems up, we fail to support our Strike Group and we fail to support the troops on the ground. Not one Scout is willing to accept that and the dedication they have shown is the finest I have ever had the privilege to witness. The next opportunity you get, please take the time to tell your Scout how proud you are of them. They truly deserve it!

As a Commanding Officer, one

of the greatest honors I have is to recognize our Sailor's hard work. This month it thrills me to announce that we made 7 new 2nd Class Petty Officers and 7 new 3rd Class Petty Officers. Please join me in congratulating:

Promoted to 2nd Class Petty Officer:

AD2 Colson
AM2 Ernest
AO2 Kerston
AT2 Miller
PR2 Peters
AE2 Rodriguez
AD2 Sena

Promoted to 3rd Class Petty Officer:

AT3 Ballard
AT3 Fitzhugh
AO3 Kyle
AE3 Liddle
AO3 Lucas
AME3 Puckett
IT3 Solano

Outstanding work to our 14 newest promotees!!

As a last minute entry, I'd like to welcome our newest Scout baby; Landon James Ellis (6lbs 10ozs) who was born today 6 Dec 2005! Congratulations AM3 Ellis and Tracy!

With that I will sign off and allow you all to enjoy the great

inputs from all the shops. As we move into the holidays, I would ask all of you to please be extremely careful in all that you do. At my request, the Safety Department has attached some useful holiday tips at the end of our Family Gram. As I told all of you back at our pre-deployment brief in June, the safety of all of our squadron was of paramount importance to me. Nothing exceeds that point! It is critical to me that we bring all of our Sailors and aircraft home safely and you have my promise we are working very hard every day to do that. I consider nothing less acceptable. In that same light, it is absolutely critical to all of us out here that our families back home are safe. The holidays can be very stressful with many people trying to do too much. Please take the time to examine all that you are doing and be vigilant to potential dangers. It could be the difference between a wonderful holiday and a tragedy. The later is not where any of us want to go. We miss you all very much and as always, Thank You for all your support! We could not do this without each of you. Keep those letters, packages and emails coming, we appreciate it!!

SCOUTS RULE!

Skipper

CMC

Here we are again, just starting to round the corner and getting closer to the halfway point. I have to start with saying that I couldn't be prouder of our Scouts. I meet weekly with all the other squadron CMCs and I hear about various issues and concerns, which are pretty much the norm when families are separated like we are. I listen and reflect on the Scouts. We certainly have our share of concerns, but I take great pride in the way that we (all of us here and at home) handle important situations that come up. We have faced very little that we

haven't been able to work through and your support is key to our success. I'd like to also take a moment and congratulate Michele and AN Dereck Sells on the birth on their baby girl Julia Michele Sells born on Nov 5 2005. We talked this all out early and formulated a plan to keep them in touch as much as possible prior to and during the birth. It worked out better then we could have imagined. Michele kept us up to speed on how she was doing, and when their special day came along Michele contacted our Ombudsman with a direct line that we could use while she was in the hospital. Karen contacted me and we brought AN Sells in my office and got him on the phone with Michele. They stayed in touch for nearly 2 hours during the birth of their new daughter. I have seen many things in my years in the Navy, but it was the first time I ever watched a man become a father. It certainly wasn't the best way to do it, but it was the most important time in a young couple's life, and even a half a world apart they shared that most important time together. After the phone call, I was told mother and daughter were doing great. Dad, on the other hand, was an emotional wreck (in a very happy way) but I promised him I wouldn't tell anyone so please keep that between us :) Seriously, I want to congratulate both Michele and Dereck and wish all three of them many years of happiness as a family together. On a few quick personal notes I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you for your support in what we are doing. My family has a personal vested interest in our mission of protecting our ground troops. By the time you receive this newsletter our son will be on the ground in Iraq serving our nation. The job we do out here gives me as a father a great sense of comfort each night, and I'm very grateful to all of you who support our Scouts. Please be safe and take care of each other. "Vivian and Lauren, I love and miss you both very

much and I can't wait to be home again".

J. P. Alcott
CMC VS-24
Scouts Rule!!!

PAO

Greetings to family and friends from the other side of the World. The Scouts are halfway through cruise and still charging hard. After the first line period, with a 100% sortie completion rate the Scouts were rewarded with the CVW-8 "Golden Wrench" award. Other awards given out were two top five nugget pilots LT Pat "Goulet" Hart and LT Mark "Snooze" Gander. LT Tra "Fish" Calisch finished in the top ten overall ball flyers for the first line period. The Scouts finished 3rd overall for their performance around the ship. The entire wardroom is flying night and day collecting several traps and many hours. The Scouts continue to pass fuel to the rest of the Air Wing to help them support our troops on the ground. Additionally, we continue our surface search missions helping the carrier better understand the shipping activity in the Gulf.

Since our last newsletter we have pulled into Jebel Ali / Dubai, United Arab Emirates twice. The MWR once again offered several activities for the Sailors to indulge in. They included trips to the local malls, Gold Souk and local restaurants. They also offered guided tours on four wheelers over the sand dunes, camel rides and local entertainment. The port calls were well deserved and the Scouts took advantage of every minute we were in port. Thanksgiving day passed when we were in port, so our Thanksgiving dinner was on the 25th. The ship provided us with turkey, ham, roast beef, candied yams, mashed potatoes and countless other holiday foods and deserts. The food was outstanding, although it was not

better than being home with our loved ones. The holidays are upon us, and every Scout wishes they were home with their loved ones. Thank you for your support, phone calls, e-mails, letters and packages, the little reminders of home help us get through each day.

LTJG Snakenberg



ADMIN. DEPT

Greetings from the World-renowned Scout Admin Department. I would like to first take a second to thank all of our family and friends for the numerous care packages and daily e-mails that make this deployment a little more bearable.

With the holidays rapidly approaching it is good to know that we are in your thoughts and prayers. Since our last installment we had a blast in Jebel Ali. The weather was bright and very sunny! PS1 Harris and PS2 Punongbayan took full advantage of MWR and went sand boarding which I have to say it is a once in a lifetime experience. YN1 Nelson went on his search for his gold brick (a nice paperweight for his desk ☺). PS3 Lookfong took a little time off from school and studying for his EAWS and indulged himself with some Arabian Gyros in the "Desert Oasis". Several of us also enjoyed our trip to the Gold Souk (nothing like wall to wall gold). PS2 PB also celebrated her 24th Birthday (though she doesn't look a day over 21). AN Rodriguez continued to hone his skills as a Personnel Specialist while getting some much deserved liberty in the numerous malls of Dubai. SH2 Ferguson and his skilled First LT Warriors

AN Tibbetts, AMAN Hoppert, AN North, AEAN Boothe and AZAN Johnson have been churning and burning in their maintenance of Scout spaces onboard the TR. They are always ensuring that material condition of those spaces does not decline but sparkles and shines. MA1 Partin has become an integral part of the TR Security Force, and though we rarely see her, she is still the force to be reckoned with. Well, that is about all for this installment, we love and miss each and every one of you. Have a great Thanksgiving and we will be in touch. Personnel Specialist One OUT!!

PN1 Harris

MAINTENANCE DEPT

MAINTENANCE ADMIN

Greetings and Salutations from the Gulf! We are here in the hot desert temperatures, trying to stay hydrated as much as possible. All are working hard daily and the training is really paying off. In the Mech shop, AD2 Berthelot, AD2 Netto and AD2 Self are all 'Engine Turn-up Instructors' for our S-3 aircraft. ADC Robertson, AD1 King and AD1 Snellman are building a great team.

The PRs are leading the pack in qualification. For the month of October, PR1 Turner and PR3 Peters became qualified APU operators. PRAA Gulley Qualified as a Plane Captain. Keep it up PR's!

The AEs are following a close second with qualifications. AE2 Pease became a CDI (Collateral Duty Inspector) and AE3 Rodriguez re-qualified on his Plane Captain Qualification. AEAN Liddle added to his

qualifications the Final Checker at sea qualification.

Those ATs are running the race with everyone. AT2 Muniz and ATAN Langley are qualified APU Operators with AT3 Worthley finalizing the list with Final Checker at Sea and Shore.

In the Buddy Stores work center, AMAN McKenzie became a certified Plane Captain and APU operator. AD3 Colson and AE3 Holman, also of Buddy Stores came through both qualifying as APU Operators.

A special 'Way To Go' for the Line Division. AM3 Lenhart, AN Maciag and AN Williams, all qualified as Plane Captains while underway. AN Foster, AN Sells, AN Robles and AN Williams have all qualified as APU operators in the short time we've been away from home. AD1 Smith and AD1 Cedenio are doing a great job training our young troops!

The family members worried about our fitness and morale - Please worry no longer!! ATC (AW) Lemcool, AE1 Quillin, PR2 Peters and AD3 Root are keeping morale high and our bodies in top physical shape. "Boy are we tired!!" Thank you to a great motivating team. Welcome back to AZ2 Simms. He has been a part of the ship's security team. Not only does he help out in Maintenance Control, he is learning the many aspects of Maintenance Admin. We are proud to have AZ2 Simms join the elite team of administrators in Admin.

AM1 Webb

Some personal notes from all of us to all of you:

1. Babe, I love you. You are in my prayers daily. Dee
2. My Loving Wife and handsome boys, I love you with all my heart! Quincy

MAINTENANCE CONTROL

For starters, from all of us to all of you, our families, Happy Thanksgiving. Of course we all wish we could be home with you all to enjoy some good old-fashioned home cooking. By the time you receive this we'll be at the halfway point of deployment, before you know it we'll be home! We are proud to say our planes are flying high and taking care of business. We SKs and AZs are working hard keeping up with the support of the Squadron. SK1 Bradford, SK2 Buezo, AZ2, Simms, and SK3 Pangco have recently celebrated birthdays, another year older, another year wiser! Congratulations are in order for AZ2 Simms and AZ3 Murry as they have both recently qualified as Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists. AZC Montoya recently reached a milestone in his career as he reenlisted and will be moving on after deployment to the cushy world of P-3s. Congratulations go out to SKSN Nguyen and to AN Ulyansky who both received Bravo Zulu's for outstanding efforts and initiative in their field. Also, by the time you read this we will have talked to all of you as we have just completed our second visit to Jebel Ali, UAE for some hard earned and well deserved time off for the whole squadron. I would like to say I am cutting our newsletter short because we have a lot of shout-outs to send your way. So we would like to say Happy Thanksgiving and we love and miss all you back home.

SK2 Buezo



To friends and family back home:

AZC Rice - Happy Birthday to Janice & hello to KJ & Kaylen.

Love Ya'!!!

SK2 Buezo - I would like to say to my wife Jenny, and my baby girl Lydia I miss ya'll and love ya'll very much. See ya'll soon, oh yea and to my dog Salia behave over there in California. Hi mom and dad miss ya'll and love ya'll. Also to my other mom and dad Love ya'll and miss ya'll too.

ATC Entzi - Hey to Greg & James. Love ya June. See ya'll soon

LT Taylor - Hey to Kristen, Mike and Steph. Happy Birthday Kristen, Love you Lori. See ya soon

SKSN Nguyen - I wanna give a shout out to my family and friends in New Orleans. I think about ya'll everyday and I am praying for ya'll every night. I love ya'll, Versai forever!!!

AMC Snow - Kellee, Shelbee, Sydnee, Stephanie & Kristen, I love you and I miss you. Kellee, thank you for all that you do to support me out here. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

AZC Montoya - Denise, Tony, and Josh - We are half way there. I love and miss you guys. Take care of yourselves!! Can't wait to see you again!!

AZ3 Murry - Frankie, Tray, De'Heaven & Bam - I love you guys and I can't wait to see ya'll at the end of cruise, keep the troops in your prayers and take care.

CWO Owens - I love you Kathleen, Have a Happy Thanksgiving with all the animals! I know Betty and Trapper will love the turkey! Shout out to my left over Heineken in the fridge. I love you all, but Kathleen the most.

SK2 Callender - Hey ma, daddy, Jason, Jovon, and not forgetting the love of my life, my loving son Diaunte. I love you and miss you all allot.

SK1 Joseph - Shout out to my husband Ron, I love you and miss you and have a great Thanksgiving. Peace Out....

SK1 Bradford - Hello love and Impressionable Dacia. I love you all and have a great Thanksgiving, Dacia Happy Birthday, & Merry Christmas. Thank God!!! Jason....

AVCM Seymour - Mom, Diane, Autumn, and especially Hope. I love and miss you all, stay safe and be good. We'll be home before you know it.

SK2 Kurasz - Hello Pete, Jessika, and Martin. I love and miss you guys. Have fun in the new house. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Birthday Martin. Mommy.

AMC Leech - Hey Janet, Amanda & Shelby have a Happy Turkey Day. Love and miss you all!

AT SHOP

Seasons Greetings from the ALL-STAR "TRON" TEAM

Here aboard the mighty TR we are all doing well, despite how much we all miss our loved ones. So here's how it is... still leading the way, Chief Kelly has become the hardest working chief in all the Air Wing, because if you want to find him he'll be "on deck" getting down and dirty with the troops. We call him "Buddha" for he knoweth all.

LPO AL continues to acquire responsibilities and delegates with rapid-fire precision. However, despite the heavy pressure, Al still finds time to hobnob with the chiefs over a good game of 'HOT-ROD American Street Drag'. Carlos our unsinkable Night-Sup is still cracking the whip with a smile. He's never one to let you down, Carlos ensures our workload stays in its place, low. When the

sundown troops are feeling sluggish, out come the e-mails full of goodies to share. Kevin our resident "Super-Shooter" can be found fixing and CDI'ing whatever nasty gripe that rears its head. Although all work and no play is just not our style and Kevin certainly enjoyed Jebel Ali.

Our most senior Eric continues to lead by example. Second in command after dark, "Old Man Miller" can be sought for advice, or a fiery tongue lashing if you get on the wrong side of his coffee mug. Anthony remains the 210 workhorse, hard-charging full speed ahead into everything he does. The gripes try, but can't hide from AT3 "Stach", who continues his quest to make you want to laugh and smack him at the same time. Bobby has transformed into a split-second troubleshooting encyclopedia, relaying gigabytes of data in just a few breathless sentences. Bobbie's newfound abilities have blossomed him into the latest shop smart-alec. Now 22, we love him all the more. Happy Birthday Robert!

Apple pie April our native lowagian has grown into her job as the daytime "AT Shooter." Even while being tasked to "hold the codes" Ms. Abbott still finds time to gross us out with icky girl stuff. Julius our very own CT/IT select is still hitting his maintenance groove. He's not only fixing our jets, but also fixing Chief's computer constantly. The J-Train just keeps on going. Steve our newest PC "select" is marching steadily towards Kingdom Qual, because until Ling Ling gets his crisp white jersey, he no happy. Eric of Texas has assumed the STAR WARS mantle and proven he can handle the heat. Shooting from the hip all Vikings, Tomcats, Hornets, Prowlers, and Helos that cross his path.

Let's not forget about our other ATs currently serving as ambassadors for the Scouts over in TAD land. The second team starters are: Tywan a.k.a. "T-Ball", Daniel a.k.a. "Afro-Man",

and Eric a.k.a. "Motorman". We do miss them here in the shop, but very shortly they shall return to their rightful place among us.

We are waiting the return of William who is keeping up foreign relations in Bahrain and bringing back some much-awaited supplies for the shop

Finally, we hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving, and please keep those care packages coming; it's our little slice of home. A special congratulations to our new petty officers AT3 Ballard and AT3 Fitzhugh and our new second class AT2 Miller way to go guys. Remember at home, just know that you are all on our minds and in our hearts.

ATC Kelly



ATC Kelly



AT2 Moroni

To my Beautiful Wife Renee and the 6 pack.

Time is getting shorter, only 3 months left. Thank you for all the letters and packages. They mean so much when I get them. Still missing you all. LUL, MUM, DTBBNSE. Love Daddy

To Hanna,

This time spent away from you makes it very clear just how meaningful and important you are to me. I love you with all my heart!! Take care of your self and Aiden! I miss you both very much!

Love Eric

To Devon,

Things are good here and half way over. I can never get home to my family fast enough. But all in good time. Remember you and Robby are always on my mind and that I love you.

Love Bobby

To Anamaris, Jacob, Bryan, and Mia,

Thank you for all your support. Halfway baby! Hang in there Guys. Papi is going to be back home soon. I hope that you guys save me some turkey. I love you all!

Dear Mom, Natalie, Vebra, Jackie and friends,

Hey all, I know its been a while since you all have heard from me, but I think about you all the time, and I miss every single one of you. Happy Thanksgiving and keep your heads up. Sweetie I can't wait to get back and see you and I'm being good, love you all.

To Carrie,

I love and miss you, have a Happy Holidays.

To Kathryn, Kyle and Ashton,

I love and miss ya'll. I hope that you save some lasagna for me when I get home. I will even have some turkey this year. I hope that you have a great Thanksgiving down at Grammy and Pop-pas. Give everyone my best.

Love Jason

AE SHOP

Hello again from the world famous AE shop. The weather might have cooled off, but the AEs are still red hot. We recently finished up two great port visits in Jebel Ali, where we recharged our batteries for the next at sea period. Since then we have been doing our part to keep the jets in the air, and maintaining the high standards of the Scouts.

Since our last newsletter, AEAN Boothe has been transferred to First Lieutenant and will be greatly missed. ATC Lemcool, one of the Scouts' new Chief Petty Officers, has taken the position as AE LCPO. AE1 Foley has earned his CDI and AE3 Boyce has recently filled the spot as one of the two AE shooters on night check and is doing a great job. AE2 Pease has taken the reigns as Shooter LPO, one of the more challenging jobs in the squadron. Now for the big news, advancement results are in. Congratulations to AE3 Rodriguez, who made 2nd Class, and AEAN Liddle, who made 3rd Class. Both individuals greatly deserve their promotions and will set the standard in their new pay grade.

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and that can mean only one thing, we are closer to coming home. The boat served an awesome Thanksgiving diner, but it was still nothing like home. We hope everyone back home had a good time with their friends and loved ones.

AE2 Rosinski

From the troops...

Randi: Almost to the halfway point, babe. I miss my best friend every moment of every day. Thank you for taking care of the home front. You are appreciated and loved more than I can put into words.

Daniel: Keep up the good work on your grades. Try not to be too much of teenager to your Mom. :)
Don

Prayat: Hello to the sweetest women in the world. You are doing a great job my Love. I am really looking forward to being with you once again. *Ken*

Brenda: Hope the kids give you a break soon. I love you, Devon, and Zane so much. Devon, good luck in the tournament. GO BREWERS!!!! *Ben*

Amy: Just a few short months left. I'm always thinking of you. Love, *Nick*

Natasha: Hey I miss you Natasha give Gavin and Kadence a kiss for me love you. *Joseph*

QA

Quality control, defined by Webster, is a system for maintaining proper standards in manufactured goods, especially by regular inspection of the product. Well, in our case, we are quality control and the mighty, Scout maintenance team is the manufactured good. This month in QA, we all got the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved time off in Dubai or Jebel Ali, UAE. While exploring the ever-growing city of Dubai, we saw the only 7-star hotel (allegedly). There were HUGE malls and shopping areas. Jewelry, jewelry and oh yes ladies that's what I said, more JEWELRY! The people of Dubai were very inviting and courteous. They were very helpful and understanding despite the language barrier. The sharing of each other's cultures was very enlightening. Though our time there was short, I am confident that everyone enjoyed themselves, because all work and no play...makes deployment a long one! Now that we are back on the ship, we are doing what we do best. Rest assured that your husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters are serving your country and protecting you and your rights with everything we have. Birthdays, anniversaries, and the holidays will all be missed. Please don't stop the care packages, letter mail and e-mails from home. For those of you who may not know, it's the little things that make the biggest difference. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers until our safe return home. Know that we here in QA are vigilantly watching

over all. Hundreds of families divided.....one Scout family united.

AZ2 Duffy



Family Shout Outs

-Hi Jamie, happy birthday sweet heart. I love and miss you soooooo much.
Love, Chad

-Though we are apart, our hearts are always together. Loving you for life, my love, my wife...Mrs. Sonya Sharp.
Love, Gary

-Happy Holidays to the loves of my life. Vanderek and Ravin Duffy.
Crystal

-Kimber, Brandon and Alexis, although we are half a world away from each other, know we are only a happy thought away.

ORDNANCE

Happy Thanksgiving to our family and friends.

Since the last newsletter we've had a couple of changes in the AO shop. AO2 Price moved up from day check supervisor to his new position of Ordnance Work center Leading Petty Officer (LPO). He continues to excel at every endeavor while at the same time he is tasked with being a mentor for all the junior Sailors in the shop. AO3 Csepegi has also moved up to the position of day check supervisor where she is performing like a true champion. I'm very happy to say the AOs are living up to the challenge. Even though at times we feel the affects of being away from the people who are dear to us, most

during the holiday season, we keep smiling. We smile because you continue to give us endless support knowing the job we do is for a worthy cause. We smile because we hope you are working on the Christmas list we sent you two months ago. We smile, knowing by the time you read this newsletter we will be at the halfway point in our journey. We want you all to know that we will continue to smile because, we know our loved one's are anxiously awaiting our triumphant return home.

AO3 Birchfield



AO2 Price and AO3 Kyle



AO3 Kyle and AOAN Marks



The Whole Shop

Hey out there in the real world. This is AO3 (AW) Williams, DeAnthony. Just wanted to tell you Happy Thanksgiving and all of that good stuff. Michelle, thanks for your support. See you in a few. Love you and Miss you.

AO3 Birchfield would just like to tell his baby sister Sierra Happy Birthday, I love you.

AO3 Kerston

Hey Babe, Just want you to know I'm doing okay. I hope that you had a good Thanksgiving. I will be home sooner than you think. I love you with all my heart and I miss you. Love you, Crokes

I just want to say thank you to my beautiful wife Mandy and my strong lil man Kaden; I love you both and miss you more than anything in the world. Happy 16th birthday to my little brother Colton, BE CAREFUL PLEASE. To my mom, grandmother, sister Carrie and her two beautiful daughters I love you guys very much and will see you soon. Savannah I love you too and I'm watching you even if I am out in the middle of the Gulf. Green grass and high tides forever. AO2 (AW) Price

CORROSION

Good day to all family and friends back home. My name is AM3 Jay Conyers, and I am the author of Corrosion Control's newsletter column this month. We are well into our third month of cruise and everything is going great. We have been to the United Arab Emirates twice since the last newsletter. We had a great time in port the first time, spending four long days there. Everyone was impressed by the splendor of Jebel Ali. We found that the food was different, the weather was hot, the beer was cold and the camels were fun to ride. We pulled back out for another three weeks doing what we are paid to do. We then pulled back in for five more days to the world famous Jebel Ali for more well deserved liberty, no camels on the pier this time, but the shopping was abundant. Everywhere you turned there was something to buy, they were even gearing up with holiday

promotions here in the United Arab Emirates. We saw a lot of happy faces, and in three more months I'm sure a lot more happy faces will be seen. We all miss our kids and loved ones and are looking forward to being home in a few months to see them. Morale is good considering we have been out away from our loved ones for so long. Just want to let everyone know we are sorry we cannot be there in person but you all are in our hearts, prayers and dreams every day.

This is Super Jay Conyers and the rest of the Corrosion Control team hoping you all had as wonderful a Thanksgiving as we had out here, and we wish all of our loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to follow.

AM3 Conyers

AIRFRAMES

Well it's month number three on our wondrous cruise. The Airframes shop was in dying need of a port visit. Just recently we finally pulled into Jebel Ali (Dubai) U.A.E. We hit the tail end of Ramadan so we had to pay particular attention to their customs during their holiday so as not to offend the locals. We had a blast from going to the water park, to the Gold Souk, and back to the Sandbox. There was so much to do to keep us busy. And then it was back to sea. Filled with flight operations and with that comes broken airplanes. Busy again!!! It keeps the time going. During the end of the month we pulled back into Jebel Ali for another visit. The troops enjoyed Thanksgiving in port. The ship prepared a nice Thanksgiving dinner for the guys. I'm not sure if it was better than Mom's cooking, maybe I shouldn't go there. Well we miss our loved ones and keep those e-mails, letters, and packages coming.

AM1 Lorts



Working Hard in the Shop



Scouts on the Flight Deck

From the troops...

Holli, Three down, three to go!
We are half way there Baby! I
can't wait to get back to you.☺
I Love you!!!!

MECH SHOP

Greetings again, family and friends, from the World Famous Scout Mech Shop. Well, we did it! We have finally reached the halfway point in our journey, and are eagerly anticipating our return home. We have had ups and downs, but we are pulling through in true Scout fashion. We were recently blessed with two new additions to the work center. Joining us from the Line Division are AN Derek Sells, and AN Gerard Harper, looking resplendent in their new green jerseys. The shop has really come together to knock down the workload and keep the aircraft flying and the gas flowing! You can rest assured that we are doing our part to keep the guys on the ground safe. Since the last newsletter, we were able to make a much needed port visit to Dubai, U.A.E. Everyone enjoyed the chance to get off the boat and do some shopping and see some sights in this up and coming desert oasis. Everyone was

especially fond of the Gold Souks, where purchasing high quality gold at rock bottom prices was an every day occurrence. We are sure that our significant others' will appreciate them just as much in March! Thus, with batteries charged, we set about on the next leg of our adventure. With the flight schedule running each and every day, the Mechs stay busy, but still manage to achieve much needed qualifications. AD2 Netto and AD3 Polifroni, our resident TFOs, have racked up enough flight hours to complete their "Backseat Quals", allowing them to fly unaccompanied in the mighty S-3 Viking. ADAN Wade recently completed his Final Checker syllabus, joining AD2 Self, AD2 Labbruzzo and AD2 Ilovaes on the Flight Deck as Mech Trouble Shooters, ensuring the jets get off the pointy end. AD1 Snellman and AD2 Ilovaes join the ranks of the APU and Engine Turn operators, respectively. When not actively involved in maintenance, our resident comic relief, AD2 Berthelot, keeps us in stitches, and keeps the mood light (now if we could only keep him actively involved in maintenance...)

The support from home, thus far, has been overwhelming. Thanks for all the mail and goodies, and we hope that you keep the packages coming. We all would like to tell everyone at home that we love and miss you all very much, and as our time apart dwindles, we all look forward to having you in our arms again. Until next time, keep us in your hearts and prayers, as you are in ours. SCOUT'S RULE!

AD1 (AW) King



AD2 Labbruzzo and AD1 King



AD2 Self

From the Guys:

AD2 Labbruzzo-Jenna, I love you baby and the day is drawing near that we will be back in each other's arms again. I love you, Anthony

AD1 King-Hi guys! Everything is well, and the time is passing fast. I love you and miss you very much, and I'll be back to you soon! Daddy

AD2 Berthelot-Baby, I love you and can't wait to get home!

AD3 Polifroni -Mauro happy birthday. Wish I was there.
Ma y Pa: los extraño y los quiero mucho.
Princess: Miss you lots I'm almost home, can't wait to see you, love you.

BUDDY STORES

Hello again to the friends and families of Buddy Stores. A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Both day check and night check have been working very hard to keep our equipment up and running. I must say everything has been going smoothly thus far (knock on wood), and made our lives much easier out here. Along with the maintenance, we have been knocking out quals. AMAN McKenzie has been outstanding in achieving all of his shop quals and becoming a great asset to the shop. AD3 Colson and AE3 Holman are working on becoming CDI's (Collateral Duty Inspector)

to help take off some of the load of AM1 Pantl for checking the maintenance. On night check, our two workers AM3 McDaniel and AD3 Root have also been working on becoming a CDI and plane captains. AE2 Heard, our night check supervisor, has been a great asset in training the night check workers as well as AM1 Pantl with the day checkers. Along with all the shop credentials, everyone is starting on their enlisted aviation warfare wings so we will have them by the time we come home. Wings look very good for both career aspects and personally on the uniform. As we all have heard the phrase work hard and play harder, we had the opportunity to do so. During the end of October, we pulled into port at Jebel Ali, UAE for some much deserved liberty. I can say that we all enjoyed it dearly as it gave us time to blow off some steam, relax, have fun and get in touch with everyone back home without using the ships expensive phone card that doesn't last long. Everyone went out in town and did some tours, shopping or just got away and had a good time. If you ask anyone, it was not enough time, but shortly after we were back underway and doing our part back in the Gulf helping the fighter jets put warheads on foreheads. As we are currently underway, we are getting back into the groove of sea life again with demanding flight schedules and passing time until we pull in again. Hopefully everyone had a fun and safe Halloween trick or treating with the little ones and was able to get plenty of candy to send out our way ☺. Unfortunately we were not able to spend Thanksgiving with you all. You were all thought of dearly as we spent it in Jebel Ali. After we departed Jebel Ali the day after Thanksgiving, we enjoyed a fabulous feast with plenty of food and desserts for everyone to enjoy. Even though it doesn't compare to home cooked meals, it sure was something to enjoy out here. Before I close this

addition of the newsletter, we have some good news out here. From this past advancement cycle, we had one of our own make Second Class. Congratulations to AD2 Colson for being advanced. Hopefully next time we will have more of us making rate. Along with the advancement news, recently AMAN McKenzie was selected as the Sailor of the Day onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT. We are very proud of him in being selected for such a position amongst many Sailors. As we near our half way mark, we continue to work hard and stay safe so we can come home safely and in one piece. Everyday each and everyone of you are missed and thought of constantly. Please keep the packages and letters coming out this way as they cheer us up and help us get through another day at sea. Before you know it March will be here and we will all be united again. Until next time...

AD3 Root



AM1 Pantl



AE2 Heard



AM3 McDaniel, AME3 Drummond

and AD3 Root

**World's greatest
Buddy Stores.**

PR SHOP

Hello again from the best PR shop in the entire Navy! We are halfway through with the deployment now, and the time is flying by. We were able to get some much needed rest and relaxation during two port visits to Dubai, UAE. It was funny that the number one priority for all of us while in port was to sleep as late as possible. Sometimes you don't realize how much it means to finally **not** have to get out of bed in the morning! Aside from catching up on sleep and laundry, we all were able to enjoy some shopping for everything from electronics to jewelry. Rest assured, you all have some very nice gifts to look forward to. We were in port on Thanksgiving, so we actually celebrated the holiday on the next day when we went back out to sea. The folks down in the galley cooked up a storm and served a huge spread of food for most of the entire day. It was certainly hard to go back to work and stay awake afterwards!

Lots of hard physical work is being done to pass the time out here. Holly and Brandon have become experts at moving thousands and thousands of boxes of food every time we have "replenishment" (That's where we get groceries from another ship). Kevin and Josh have started a workout plan that begins at 3:45 a.m. each day. I am sure Kevin will admit that the hardest part of the workout is trying to get Josh to wake up and get out of bed that early. All of us seem to be benefiting from our workouts since everyone is shedding the pounds and building the muscle. We are all excited about getting fit for our homecoming.

On November 19th we got to celebrate Josh and Holly's birthdays, complete with a cake.

Sure it was not the same as celebrating at home, but everyone in the shop did a great job in making the day as special as it could be. We also recently received the news that Holly was selected for advancement and is now PR2, congrats to Holly!

Christmas is coming and so are the boxes! I think we'll have to knock down a wall and add on another room to make room for all this stuff. I think we have the largest stockpile of snacks and goodies on the ship! We thank you all for everything we have been enjoying out here. Please keep the mail coming!

For now we will sign off. Hope the time is flying by at home as fast as it is out here. Take care and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers always.

PR1 Turner



PR2 Blenkhorn and PR1 Turner

AME SHOP

Well, here we are broadcasting live from smack dab in the middle of the Persian Gulf, onboard the mighty THEODORE ROOSEVELT, as we maintain our essential aircraft systems in direct support of air, sea and ground forces engaged in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. To our loved ones back home, we love and miss you all very much.

For those of you closely following the exploits of the intrepid VS-24 AME shop, we've been keeping very busy with our heavy flight schedule, steady maintenance workload and active pursuit of further qualifications. Not to worry though, we haven't encountered anything we can't handle. After all we've got AME2

Wittig in QA!

Our recent port visit to Jebel Ali, in the United Arab Emirates presented us with differences in culture and viewpoints among the local populace but best of all, good shopping and camel rides.

Mail from home, both e-mail and post, is greatly appreciated by all hands, and lets keep those snack-laden packages coming.

In closing, we want to wish all of you a happy Turkey day. It won't be quite the same for us out here, but we will carve the Thanksgiving seagull and pass the instant mashed potatoes with thoughts of each and every one of you.

AME2 (AW) Walls



Walls; Phaed, I love you. Take care of Megan and my car. Yours always, Kenn

Byrd; Jeri Lynn and Lauren, Daddy misses his girls, can't wait to hug ya.

LINE SHACK

Once again, everyone here from the VS-24 Line Division would like to say hello to all family and friends back home. In the last month, we have been working extremely hard in our continued support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Because of the long hours and dedication made by your loved ones, this squadron has been able to successfully launch and recover aircraft on a daily basis. Every time we get our S-3B Vikings airborne, we are supporting the soldiers and Marines on the ground in Iraq. Along with spending up to 12 hours a day on

the very dangerous flight deck, many of the young men from the Line have been working on personal qualifications. AN Larry Dean, ATAN Joshua Worsham, AME3 Tyson Drummond and AN Marcos Ramirez all received their Plane Captain qualifications this past month. They all spent many long hours on the flight deck and in the books, and they passed a very challenging Plane Captain board. AN Ryan Dees helped train many of these new Plane Captains and he continues to do an excellent job on the flight deck.

Because of his hard work and success, AN Dees was named the Plane Captain of the Month for October. AN James Foster spent much of his off duty time preparing to pass his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) board. Congratulations to all the SCOUTS from the Line that received awards and qualifications. There has been some turnover in the Line Division recently and we would like to welcome AMAN Ivan Spicer as our newest member. AMAN Spicer comes from the Airframes shop and we expect great things from him. We all wish we could be back in sunny Jacksonville right now with all of our loved ones and we look forward to the day when we can come home. Until then, we will continue to work hard and support the mission of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

LT Hart



AN Persaud



AN Williams



ADAN Sells

SAFETY

Hello from your friendly neighborhood Safety Department. The Safety Department has the monumental responsibility of ensuring that the squadron safely executes our mission day in and day out. Our one priority is to bring every Scout home safe. The Scouts are currently working hard and staying safe thanks to a tremendous all hands effort. The Safety Officer, LCDR "HOOD" Higgs, is leading the charge and setting the standard as the Air Wing Safety Duty Officer. The Safety Department would like to say good-bye to our Ground Safety Officer, LT "SNOOZE" Gander, who is taking on the challenge as the Power Plants and Buddy Stores Branch Officer. His relief, LT "WORKHORSE" Haddock, has immediately become a valuable asset to the department. Our Scout Safety Petty Officer, AE1 Williams, continues to execute his many duties. His effort as the CVW-8 Electrical Safety Inspector LPO ensures all personal electrical equipment in the Air Wing meets the required safety standards for use on board ship. Additionally, Petty Officer Williams is also the Command ESWS coordinator. He is currently assisting and motivating the 32 Scouts currently

enrolled in the program.

AE1 Williams

To my Loving Soul mate Cicily. I love you and miss you, can't wait to see you when we return. Loving You Always and Forever, Gerald

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are an exciting time of year for family, friends and especially the kids. The following are some tips to ensure that your loved ones stay safe this holiday season.

General Holiday Safety Tips

Trees:

A fire on any day is a horrible experience, however a fire on Christmas days seems to be the worst. Last year over 300 Christmas trees caught fire, with electrical problems the most common culprit. Here's how to keep your tree green and your family safe. **Consider an artificial tree, they are much safer and require less maintenance.**

1. When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
2. If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
3. Make sure your lights are safe. If you need outdoor lights, make

sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use. Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.

4. Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
5. Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Christmas lights are cheap.
6. Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
7. Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off.
8. Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out.
9. If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws. If necessary, buy a larger stronger tree stand.
10. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
11. Keep your tree at least three feet from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
12. Try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
13. When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it. Don't leave it in your house

or put it in your garage.

Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.

Lights:

1. Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards.
2. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
3. Use no more than **three** standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
4. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
5. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage.
6. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
7. For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

Decorations:

1. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near

other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.

2. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

The Rough Rider

Sailor of the Day

AMAN Richard McKenzie

By JO2 Stephen Murphy

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Richard McKenzie does his part each day to help USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) successfully carry out its missions.

As a member of Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24, McKenzie has the responsibility of maintaining the air refueling stores used for in-flight refueling by the S-3B Vikings of Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW 8). His hard work and dedication, on and off duty, have resulted in him being selected as the Sailor of the Day.

"He's a very productive worker and a hard-charger," said Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate (AW) Doug Brock. "He is one of the best we have in VS-24 and definitely worthy of the recognition."

"I have always loved everything about aviation," said McKenzie. "I wasn't able to come in as an officer so I can't fly, but I can do the next best thing, which is to work on aircraft."

"I went to college after high school, but it seemed like life was going too slow and

not interesting," said McKenzie. "I decided I wanted to do something new and more adventurous, and still earn a college degree, so I joined the Navy."

McKenzie enlisted in November 2003, and after completing basic training and Aviation Structural Mechanic "A" school, received orders to VS-24, based out of Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., in 2004.

McKenzie said he is still working on his degree and has completed one PACE course during this deployment.

However, he is currently putting college aside so he can devote his time to earning an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) pin.

"Earning the (EAWS) is really important to me, and is something I really want to earn before returning home," McKenzie said. "I'd love to be able to wear the pin when I get back home to my family. It'll show that I did more than just my job while being out here."



Photo by JO2 Stephen Murphy

Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Richard McKenzie of Columbia, S.C., is today's USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailor of the Day.

As a Sailor, McKenzie is following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who both served in the Navy. McKenzie said that even though he is proud to carry on a family tradition, he doesn't plan to make the military a career. His heart is set on wearing a different uniform.

"My dream is to become a state trooper," said McKenzie. "Not only do they help fight crime but they also help out the community, and I'm interested in both aspects."

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

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The Rough Rider

'Scouts' receive 'Golden Wrench' award

By JO2 Stephen Murphy

Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24 was awarded Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8's "Golden Wrench" award Nov. 18, for achieving a 100 percent sortie completion rate with its S-3B Vikings during the second line period of USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) current deployment to the Arabian Gulf.

Chief Warrant Officer Gary Owens, VS-24 maintenance material control officer, said the squadron's determination and quality maintenance are key factors for VS-24 winning the award.

"It's been a complete team effort by the crew to get where we are now," said Owens. "The S-3B Viking is a very old aircraft, and it takes a lot of man-hours to maintain aircraft readiness."

"Since we've been out here, the VS-24 troops have been motivated, their morale has been high, and winning this award is well deserved," said VS-24 Maintenance Material Chief Petty Officer, Aviation Master Chief (AW) Michael Seymour.

The Vikings have a multi-faceted mission, which involves searching, tracking, and coordinating attacks on surface contacts that may threaten Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group and ground forces in Iraq.

Sea Control Squadron 24 also serves as the sole tanking platform for CVW 8, as VS-24's Vikings are used to conduct in-flight refueling for the air wing. This allows for longer flight operations and increased support for ground forces.

"People's lives depend on the work we do," said Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class

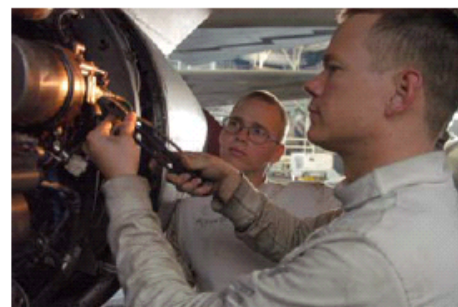


Photo by JO2 Stephen Murphy

Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class (AW) David King of Orlando (right) and Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Richard McKenzie of Columbia, S.C., perform maintenance on an S-3B Viking from Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24.

(AW) David King. "Quality maintenance is one of the most important jobs we do."

Sea Control Squadron 24 last won CVW 8's Golden Wrench award in 1999 for two line periods when embarked with TR.

